

III. REMARKS

Claims 21-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-7 have been cancelled, and claim 21 has been amended. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) because the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance as discussed below; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Smith et al. (USPN 6,255,233), hereinafter “Smith”; and claims 4-5 and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith in view of Todd (USPN 6,733,830). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons that follow.

With respect to independent claim 21, Applicants submit Smith and Todd do not disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, “the at least one component including perfluoroalkylsiloxanes[.]” The Office admits that Smith does not include this feature but relies on Todd to overcome this deficiency of Smith. Applicants submit that Todd also does not disclose the above feature of claim 21 because Todd does not disclose using perfluoroalkylsiloxanes as the precursor. (*See* col. 9, lines 13- 60.) In view of the foregoing, Smith and Todd, even in the suggested combination, do not disclose or suggest the above limitation of the claimed invention.

The dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reasons, as well as for their own additional features.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Spencer K. Warnick/

Spencer K. Warnick
Reg. No. 40,398
(JZ)

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Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
75 State Street, 14th Floor
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 449-0044
(518) 449-0047 (fax)